

# Share U.S. Culture through Skype with Russian High School Students and Young Adults



Project Title	Share U.S. Culture through Skype with Russian High School Students and Young Adults
Project Summary	Create English and U.S. culture lessons weekly or biweekly for young people participating in U.S. Embassy Moscow-sponsored programs. Interact via Skype sessions to deliver these lessons to these students.
Country	Russia
Country/Region of Focus	Russia

## Project Description

The Virtual Intern develops English language and U.S. culture lesson plans and delivers them by video conference to Russian students in U.S. Embassy Moscow-supported programs. The Intern is expected to interact for about an hour with the approximately 14-20 students in each class. The goal is for the students, many of whom live in underserved communities of Russia, to have a chance to practice English with a U.S. citizen. Interns will work with the teacher at their site to determine appropriate topics for discussion, based on the material the students are working with at the time of the Skype meetings. Topics could include popular culture or education. The difference in time zones may require early morning or late night Skype sessions.

## Required Skills or Interests

### Skill(s)

Cultural diplomacy

Educational design

## Additional Information

The Access program (<https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/english-access-microscholarship-program>) provides young disadvantaged but motivated students with English language and leadership skills throughout the 2-year program. The Advance program is for underemployed 19-30 year olds and provides English, entrepreneurship, and management skills over 9 months.

The Virtual Intern will create lessons so that the Access/Advance students can practice English and learn about U.S. culture while sharing information about Russian culture to the Virtual Intern. The purpose of the lessons is to increase English fluency and knowledge about the United States. Topics can be chosen by the Virtual Intern or by the collaboration among the Virtual Intern, the Access/Advance teachers, and the students. Possible topics include traditions, food, hobbies, U.S. sports, holidays, famous people, and other interesting topics.

The Virtual Intern can play games, give information and have a discussion based on that information, role play, have a Q&A session, or teach the students something. It is recommended to plan different activities each lesson.

The Virtual Intern can use materials from many sources to create these lessons, including  
<https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/celebrate-holidays-usa>  
<https://americanenglish.state.gov/culture-music-and-game-resources>  
<https://americanenglish.state.gov/four-skills-resources>  
<https://www.si.edu/educators>

Additionally, the Virtual Intern can always reach out to Regional English Language Officer Kelli Odhuu for additional lesson ideas or to help solve issues with the Skype sessions.

## Language Requirements

*None*